



USS Arizona Memorial remains the resting place for fallen servicemembers... B-1

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



Pearl Harbor hosts numerous ceremonies for visiting survivors... A-7, 8

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Sixty years later

Week of remembrance concludes



JO2 Jim Williams photo

Two Pearl Harbor survivors look at the wall listing the Sailors and Marines who died aboard USS Arizona (BB 39) Dec. 7, 1941. The men were aboard the USS Arizona Memorial for the 60th anniversary commemoration ceremony

The Nation, Navy commemorate the attack on Pearl Harbor

JO2 Daniel J. Calderon
Staff Writer

Dec. 7, 1941 was a bleak day in American history. It was a day "which will live in infamy..." It was a day that showed Americans that they were not invincible, not untouchable and that the world was much smaller than they previously believed.

Dec. 7, 2001 was a day to remember the lessons of 60 years ago. It was a day of solemn reflections of shipmates lost and friendships forged in fire.

Rear Admiral Robert T. Conway, Jr., Commander Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific hosted the Navy's 60th anniversary commemoration ceremony held aboard the USS Arizona Memorial. The morning ceremony, which coincided with the attack 60 years ago, was a time for a nation to consider what it had lost and what it had gained over the course of the past six decades.

Adm. Vernon E. Clark, Chief of Naval

▼ See CEREMONY, A-2

USS Arizona survivors return to Pearl Harbor

JO3 Sunday Sawyer
Staff Writer

Hundreds of Pearl Harbor survivors, supporters and family members came from all over to attend the 60th Anniversary of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor. Remembering a day of pain, sorrow and shattered dreams, 21 USS Arizona survivors along with 255 friends and family members, found a common reason to smile.

"Despite all of the bad memories it feels really good to be face to face with so many former shipmates", said USS Arizona survivor Joseph Langdell.

Langdell along with several other Arizona survivors shed tears, gave hugs and shook hands delighted to see each other all together. Survivors felt that their time together spaced too far apart, and promised to make the most of this trip to Hawaii.

"A lot of us are not going to be around next trip, and it is important that we do all we can now and make as many good

memories as we can", said Arizona Survivor Milton Hurst.

Almost 200 uniformed Sailors lined the walkway at the USS Arizona Visitor Center to render honors to the survivors as Boatswain Mate 1st Class (SW) James Anthony escorted each survivor.

Arizona survivor Clyde Combs spoke of the surprise of their arrival and the unexpected 'royal' treatment they received from military and National Park Service representatives.

"This all is so wonderful, I did not expect anything like this and I am sure that no one else did."

After survivors were welcomed at the visitor's center and they paid their respects to their fallen shipmates the next stop was the USS Arizona Reunion Memorial Service held at Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific.

The ceremony took place at 1 o'clock in the afternoon and included a 21-gun salute as well as patriotic music from the

▼ See REMEMBERED, A-2



PHAN Casey James photo

Medal of Honor recipient, John Finn (right), talks with a Pearl Harbor Sailor at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. Read more about John Finn on B-3.

Russell Sailors rescue crew of downed B-1B in Indian Ocean

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

The Sailors of the Pearl Harbor-based destroyer USS Russell were well prepared and ready to respond when they received a distress call Wednesday and within hours, rescued four Air Force B-1B crewmembers from the Indian Ocean. The airmen bailed out of their crippled supersonic aircraft which crashed shortly after departing from the island of Diego Garcia. The Russell

was assisted by another Hawaii-based unit, a Navy P-3C Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft from Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) from Kaneohe Bay, and an Air Force KC-10 flying tanker based at Travis AFB, Calif.

The B-1B bomber, which has been flying missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, began to have mechanical problems about 100 miles north of Diego Garcia.

"There were multiple aircraft system malfunctions

which made it impossible to fly the aircraft," said Capt. William Steele, the plane's pilot, who spoke to reporters at the Pentagon via a satellite telephone call from the Russell. The crewmembers then ejected from the plane at an altitude of about 15,000 feet.

The ship immediately responded to the location where the plane was last seen on radar.

The rescue efforts were accomplished under good seas

and weather conditions with unlimited visibility.

The aircrew used strobe lights to signal their location. Three of them were in life rafts; a fourth lost his life raft as he parachuted and was swimming in the water.

Because the crew of the plane was located in shallow water, it was necessary for the Russell to launch the ship's Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) to perform the rescue. To reach the downed airmen, the small boat traveled a dis-

tance of about six miles. During the two hours that the crew was in the water, there was no threat of bad weather or sharks. But the sight of the Russell's rescue boat was a welcome one.

"I think we were just as happy to see them as they were to see us," said Lt. Dan Manetzke, the ship's weapons officer and boat commander for the rescue. "We were much happier to see them," Steele corrected.

▼ See RESCUE, A-10

Family, friends bid final farewell to Pearl Harbor Sailor lost at sea

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

The family and friends of Petty Officer 2nd Class Randy Whitaker said their alohas to the missing Pearl Harbor-based Sailor, presumed lost at sea while serving aboard the USS Russell (DDG 59), at a memorial service held Dec. 6 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. Amidst the tears of sadness, it was also a time to celebrate the life of Whitaker and to offer thanks for a man whose friendship had meant much to

those attending. He was remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and a friend with a ready smile and a kind word to almost everyone he met.

A lone bagpiper, Marcus Reed, walked slowly down the aisle of the sanctuary piping the somber notes of "Amazing Grace" to begin the service. At the front of the church, a photo of Petty Officer Randy Whitaker was framed by a yellow lei of flowers and yellow ribbons.

Charlie Crews, a close family friend who first met Whitaker about five years ago at the Iroquois Point Lagoon Yacht

Club, delivered the eulogy and talked about Whitaker's love for sailing. The two swapped sea stories and formed a strong friendship. "Randy had a laid back attitude. He never complained and always had a smile," Crews said.

He shared a letter written by Whitaker's 17-year-old daughter, Lindsay. "Dear Dad, You'll never know how much I miss you," it said. Lindsay also wrote to her father, "You'll miss my graduation and my wedding. You'll never have the chance to walk me down the aisle or see your first grandchild. You

were not only my dad, but my best friend."

Crews reminded those in attendance, "Randy's passing should remind all of us of our fragile existence. Live your life being right. Let God in your life. God bless America."

Family and friends were given the opportunity to offer remarks about Whitaker and several took a few moments to share their feelings. Mike Wallace talked about his best friend,

▼ See MEMORIAL, A-2